

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR VOLUME 58

Dear CBS member,

2011 has been an excellent year for the California Botanical Society, and our successes only suggest more to come. Let me take this opportunity to review some of our achievements and to thank those involved. We redesigned our website (www.calbotsoc.org) and improved the accessibility of the information for our membership. We welcome your suggestions for continuing to improve this interface. In addition, many changes have occurred with *Madroño* this year. Tim Lowrey has finished his term as Corresponding Editor and Matt Ritter from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo has stepped in to replace him. On behalf of the society, I offer my sincere thanks to Tim for his fine work with the journal. He and Copy Editor Richard Whitkus have been instrumental in the conversion to an online manuscript submission and tracking process. Another exciting event regarding *Madroño* was that our proposal to JSTOR (an online archiving system) to place all of our back issues online was accepted. Sometime in the near future you will be able to access all of the older volumes through their website.

In February, Second Vice-President Marc Los Huertos did an excellent job of organizing the Society's annual banquet, held at California State University, Monterey Bay. We were treated to a talk by Josh Tewksbury, from the University of Washington, who spoke about why chilies (*Capsicum* spp.) are hot. For 2012, we did not holding a separate banquet meeting, but instead sponsored the banquet speaker for the California Native Plant Society's January Conservation Conference in San Diego. Peter Raven, Director Emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden, was our invited speaker, and he gave a wonderful talk reflecting on the history of Western North American botany and what the future may hold.

Anna Larsen has replaced Heather Driscoll as Corresponding Secretary for the Council after Heather left for an out of state position. The Council has worked particularly hard for you this year and I would especially like to thank Staci Markos for her various efforts on

behalf of the Society. Thanks go, too, to Heather Driscoll and Kim Kersh for their constant management, especially with Society membership. And, finally, special thanks to Dean Kelch and Tom Schweich for all of their financial work and representing us at conferences. All of our Council members have been critically important this year.

Given that the California Botanical Society was established in 1913, this April 2012 represents the 99th birthday of the Society. To celebrate the centennial of our Society, we are planning to organize a meeting in April 2013. We are looking at 2012 as the initiation of a year of field trips sponsored by the Society, so check the website often to find out when and where these will be held.

Our membership base is the foundation of the Society, and your support allows us to promote botanical research and education. Increasing our membership is always a priority, so please continue to encourage your colleagues to join us and to publish in *Madroño*. This is especially true of our younger colleagues. As we move online we hope to be more attractive to the younger cohorts of botanists more accustomed to this format. This year, in addition to encouraging other botanists you know to join the Society, we are also hoping to hear from you about your ideas for the celebration of our 100th year. Let us know by emailing or writing to any member of the Council. We're certain that you have some incredible ideas for the centennial celebration!

Also, please consider providing a sponsoring membership or subscription to a foreign scientist or scientific institution to support botanical research in economically depressed, developing countries. For more information on making such a gift, please contact Corresponding Secretary Anna Larsen (secretary@calbotsoc.org). The Society also sincerely welcomes gifts or other contributions to our endowment.

V. Thomas Parker
December 2011